

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SPOP SOCI EG
SUBJECT: POPULATION EXPLOSION

SUMMARY. AHAM EDITORIAL APRIL 21 ARGUES IT NECESSARY
TO STEM EGYPTIAN POPULATION EXPLOSION IN ORDER TO RAISE
STANDARD OF LIVING. AHAM'S CALL COMES AGAINST BACK-
GROUND OF INCREASING CONCERN WITH PRICES AND SUPPLY, AND
WITH APPRECIATION OF PROBLEM OF FEEDING POPULATION
INCREASING AT RATE OF ONE MILLION ANNUALLY. IN CALLING
FOR "NATIONWIDE POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM", AHAM
EDITORIAL CHALLENGING TRADITIONAL OPPONENTS OF BIRTH
CONTROL. AKHBAR'S COMMENT, IN OTHER DIRECTION, THAT
RED SEA DEVELOPMENT WILL ELIMINATE FEAR OF POPULATION
EXPLOSION PERHAPS REFLECTS DIVIDED GOVERNMENT OPINION.
END SUMMARY.

1. PICKING UP ON PRES. SADAT'S RECENT STATEMENTS
IDENTIFYING FAST GROWING POPULATION AS FOREMOST
CHALLENGE FACING EGYPT (SEPTTEL), AHAM EDITORIAL
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APRIL 21 ARGUES THAT SUCCESS OF EFFORTS TO RAISE LIVING
STANDARD DEPENDS ON STEMMING POPULATION EXPLOSION "BY
EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS AND IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME."
CONTINUATION OF POPULATION INCREASE AT PRESENT RATE
MEANS STATIC IF NOT DETERIORATING LIVING CONDITIONS
WITHOUT HOPE FOR FUTURE. (AS IF TO ILLUSTRATE POINT,
GUMHURIYYA REPORTS TODAY THAT BY YEAR 2000 EGYPT'S

POPULATION WILL BE 70 MILLION AND THAT 25 PERCENT OF EGYPTIAN POPULATION NOW CONCENTRATED IN CAIRO. THESE FIGURES APPEARED IN NOTE TO LAW CREATING AUTHORITY ON NEW CITIES WHICH PA WILL DEBATE TOMORROW.)

2. AHAM SAYS THESE FACTS NOT NEW AND GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ABOUT NEED TO STEM EXPLOSION HAVE BEEN STOCK IN TRADE FOR QUARTER OF A CENTURY. AHAM CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT FOR NOT TAKING "SERIOUS ACTION" TO WARD OFF DANGER. ARGUING THAT ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR FAMILY PLANNING HAVE HAD ONLY LIMITED EFFECT, AHAM CALLS FOR "NATIONWIDE PROGRAM TO LIMIT INCREASE IN POPULATION RATES BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE." IN UNHELPFUL COMMENT, AKHBAR EDITORIAL ON RED SEA ENDS BY SAYING DEVELOPMENT OF RED SEA AREA MEANS EGYPT NEED NO LONGER FEAR POPULATION EXPLOSION.

3. COMMENT: AHAM'S CALL COMES AGAINST BACKDROP OF INCREASING CONCERN, PARTICULARLY IN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, ABOUT PROBLEMS OF RISING PRICES, SUPPLY, AND FEEDING OF MILLION ADDITIONAL PEOPLE PER YEAR. AHAM EDITORIAL SUGGESTS GOE TESTING THE WATER TO SEE IF TIME IS PROPITIOUS TO CHALLENGE TRADITIONAL OPPONENTS OF BIRTH CONTROL LED BY SHEIKH OF AL AZHAR AND IKHWAN. AKHBAR'S COMMENT PERHAPS REFLECTS OFFICIAL OPINION DIVIDED.

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